



Working with local people to achieve
healthy, natural ecosystems and
sustainable productive landuse

EUROBODALLA LANDCARE NEWSLETTER



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Mar/Apr 2013

Coming Events – Page 6

Fauna Monitoring Workshop - CFD
Broulee Surf Club
Tuesday 16th April
6pm – 9pm

Landcare Groups get together - PG
Tuesday 30th April

Champions of the Catchment - PG
19th and 20th June 2013

For further information contact:-

PG - Peter Gow 4475 1001
EP - Emma Patyus 4474 7300
JL – Jo Lane 0429 445 897
CFD – Courtney Fink 4474 7493

COUNCILLORS VISIT TUROSS LAKES LANDCARE SITES

As part of the process for Council's Review of Landcare in the Eurobodalla, Councillors attended a staff briefing on Tuesday morning, 19th February, and a field trip in the afternoon to the Tuross peninsula.



Councillors visiting a Landcare project site at Water Tower Hill, Tuross

The trip was organised by Eurobodalla Landcare to a variety of landcare sites that are representative of the numerous projects carried out by landcare volunteers throughout the Shire.

COUNCILLORS VISIT TUROSS LAKES LANDCARE SITES Ctd

Their first port of call was to the Kyla Park grazing lands (Council community land) where Tuross Lakes Landcare, which is part of Tuross Lakes Preservation Group, carried out a large rehabilitation project between 2003-2006 to address erosion control. Other sites included examples of rainforest restoration, development of native gardens, beach access tracks and revegetation, seating and environmental education signage.

Maureen Baker, Tuross landcare group coordinator, pointed out to Councillors that although a project may be completed the group usually continues to maintain the site via weed control, repairs to fencing, tracks, etc. Hence a local landcare group can provide ongoing maintenance at no cost to Council.

There will be a further staff report to Council and landcare volunteers are hopeful that a management committee of Council will be retained as the umbrella organisation for all of the individual Landcare groups in the Shire.

Maureen Baker 22.2.13



Eurobodalla Shire Council Media Release 28 March 2013

Landcare volunteers continue the good works

Eurobodalla Shire Council has this week resolved to continue to provide financial and technical support to Landcare, volunteers that contributes around 15,000 hours of work to local environmental projects each year.

The support will be for council endorsed Landcare projects and follows a recent review of council's relationship Landcare following the move of the Eurobodalla Landcare Community Support Officer from Council to the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA).

The Mayor, Cr Lindsay Brown, says the contribution of Landcare volunteers to Eurobodalla's natural assets is extremely significant and valuable to our community.

"The ongoing support of Landcare from council and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority (SRCMA) will strengthen and assist the many volunteers to carry out their projects and works," said Cr Brown.

"They do amazing work and council would like to thank them for their efforts."

The review has developed a Memorandum of Understanding between council and the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority to ensure that Landcare volunteers are able to actively undertake natural resource management projects.

The existing Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee will cease and council will provide a representative to a proposed Eurobodalla Advisory Committee if established. The

committee is to be facilitated by the Landcare Community Support Officer and provide advice to Landcare volunteers, council and the SRCMA.

The operation of Landcare and council will be reviewed again in 12 months' time to ensure the adopted processes are enabling Landcare to operate effectively.

At the March ordinary meeting on Tuesday, Council also endorsed 21 project proposals for Landcare works across the Eurobodalla.

Landcare volunteers undertake a range of activities across a variety of landscapes in the Eurobodalla. For more information, please contact the Landcare Community Support Officer at the Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority in Batemans Bay on 4475 1001.

ENDS

Media contact

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SOIL HEALTH AND SOIL CARBON WORKSHOP

Eighteen Eurobodalla landholders recently had the opportunity to attend a Soil Health and Soil Carbon Workshop arranged by NSW Department of Primary Industries and Southern Rivers Catchment Management Authority.



Soil Health course participants Emma Patyus, Ruth Perrett, Meg Selman, Max Mosig, Patricia Latimer, Edith Asplund, Jane Knuckey, Graeme Lowne, Ryan Harris, Stuart Whitelaw, Sam Fearnley, Rob Bradley, Ray Whigham, Leonie Loker, Tony and Ailsa Le Page, Clay Stafford with presenters David O'Donnell, Felicity Roos, and Hayden Kingston.

The workshop at Mogendoura Farm covered soil carbon and its role in the soil and importance to production; soil biology and the way nutrients are recycled by bugs, grubs and microbes maintaining healthy soils; and included practical exercises to examine soil samples brought in from various properties.

Seventy five percent of life in the soils occurs in the top 5cm of soil as it depends on the air, water, and organic matter as a food source. The life in the soil interacts with plants and is important to soil health.

Land management and farming practices influence soil biology, structure, chemistry, and productivity. Soil samples were examined with hand lenses and a microscope to look for the nutrient cyclers, including bugs, grubs, worms, nematodes, fungi, and rhizobium bacteria.



Leonie Loker and Felicity Roos examining the soil fractions

Another activity was to place a soil sample in water in a clear container, shake, and allow the soil fractions to settle out into the layers of humus, clay and mineral components. This allows the participant to see approximately how much organic matter is present in their soil sample.

Participants also worked through an example of a soil carbon calculator to estimate approximately how much carbon may be present in the top 30cm of their soil. Some of the main factors in determining how much soil carbon is present include soil type, moisture, temperature, and management.

DENHAM'S GETS GROOMED



Work began on stage 2 of the Denhams Beach Rehabilitation project last week with an excavator used as part of the process towards native regeneration of the site. Stage 1 was completed last year with a Bobcat and several tipper trucks being needed to remove masses of weeds from the site. Revegetation of the first stage was conducted by volunteers from the local Landcare group and visiting Conservation Volunteers Australia crew, and the area is looking terrific with a lot of new growth on the native groundcovers and shrubs that have been planted in this area.

Stage 2 is an extension of these works and a grooming machine was used to remove the weeds due to the steep embankment. Emma Patyus, Environment Project Officer, says “The area was not safe for manual removal of the weeds as there was such a mass and we weren’t sure what lay underneath it all. Grooming has dealt with the bulk of the weeds by mulching back to the surface, and we are able to retain this mulch as part of the stabilisation of the embankment. Any native vegetation was able to be left to further aid stabilisation and will be incorporated into the revegetation”. She says, “We expect to see quite a lot of weed regrowth after removing the bulky top layer of weeds as there are still propogules,

weed seed and other plant parts left in situ. This is part of the process to mitigate erosion, and any weed regrowth can now easily be accessed and treated by spot spraying. This site will be monitored for 6 weeks before being revegetated with low growing local provenance native plants in mid-May”.



The “Groomer” mulching Fishbone Fern and other environmental weeds on a steep site at Denhams Beach

The local Landcare group has been working on sites within the area for years, including weed control along the dunes, revegetation of a rainforest gully and planting and erosion control in the gardens surrounding the car park. Denham’s Beach is a hot spot for locals and tourists alike and a highly frequented destination for dog walkers, surfers, school groups and many others. Emma says “It is tremendous to see such community spirit in the suburb from the Landcare group towards retaining and extending the natural beauty of this area. Many onlookers came down on the day and all were impressed with the work of the group and the direction that has been taken to beautify and maintain the natural environment in this area”.

Funding for this project has been provided by the Australian Government Caring for Our Country program. For further information about the site or to find out how you can assist Denham’s Beach Landcare please contact Emma Patyus on 4474 7300.

Work , Health and Safety Audits of Landcare Worksites

Eurobodalla Landcare groups have always shown a responsible attitude to the health and safety of volunteers working on their Landcare worksites and ensuring that the documentation and procedures that the Eurobodalla Landcare Management Committee has in place are followed.

It is important to continue to follow the Work Method Statements, wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and have all participants sign on to the Landcare Activity Registers (Yellow sheets). The minimum PPE is suitable clothing, hat, gloves, and enclosed shoes. Other PPE is required for certain activities.

Eurobodalla Landcare Project officers and the Landcare CSO will be visiting worksites to conduct audits to ensure safety requirements are being implemented. If you need any further information or new documentation please contact Peter Gow on 4475 1001 or Heidi Thomson on 4474 1329

Coming Events

Fauna Monitoring Workshop Broulee Surf Club Tuesday 16th April 6pm – 9pm

Learn about fauna monitoring techniques and discover what species are present in your local bushland reserve.

Topics include locating frogs, birds, bats, arboreal and terrestrial mammals.

This workshop will include a field excursion at night in Bengello Reserve, Broulee.

Bookings Essential

Please contact Courtney Fink-Downes

4474 7493

Eurobodalla Landcare Groups Annual get together Tuesday 30th April

12pm, SAGE, Moruya Community Garden site, Queen St, Moruya

(We will arrange for another nearby venue if the weather forecast is unfavourable. Signs will be placed at the SAGE site on the day if there is a change of venue)

Please contact Peter Gow on 4475 1001 to book for catering purposes

Eurobodalla's Landcare Champions of the Catchment 19th and 20th June 2013

South East Landcare will be conducting the Eurobodalla Landcare Champions of the Catchment event to recognize and acknowledge the tremendous efforts that Landcare groups put into caring for the environment and promoting sustainable agriculture / horticulture.

A 2 Day event is being planned with a Celebration Dinner on the night of Wednesday 19th June and a Bus Tour visiting 3 Landcare sites on Thursday 20th.

More information will be available in the May / June 2013 Newsletter